

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

The Museum of Science and Industry, in Jackson Park, is presenting once again a series of Christmas programs. The first presentation will take place on Sat. Nov. 29 and the last on Sunday, Dec. 14. The program is as follows: Sweden—Nov. 29; Poland in the afternoon, Norway in the evening of Nov. 30; Czechoslovakia—Dec. 1; Lithuania—Dec. 2; Greece—Dec. 3; Mexico—Dec. 4; Britain—Dec. 5; Holland—Dec. 6; Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Italy and Ukraine will appear on the day of Sunday, Dec. 7; Germany—Dec. 8; China—Dec. 9; France—Dec. 10; Eire—Dec. 11; Denmark—Dec. 12; Japan and Russia evening and afternoon of Dec. 13; The United States—Dec. 14.

Christmas trees with decorations typical of those used in the countries which will be represented during the programs, will be set about the Central Hall.



Stela Kaupas, Vytautas Beliajus, PFC. Ed Kaupas (who is now in Japan and is expected in Chicago once again during December), Julie Kaupas and Richard Kunc, are seen admiring the unusual straw decorations on the Lithuanian tree. The uniqueness of the tree attracted great numbers of spectators last year. The designs are the creations of Mrs. Maziliauskas while the dolls were made by Mrs. Samas. The ATEITIS folk dancers under V.F. Beliajus, the Alice Stephens Singers, and the VYTIS choir under the direction of Leonard Šimutis will present the program. Mrs. Peter Daužvardis is in charge of the Lithuanian section.

Pupils from Kelly High School under the direction of Miss Hazel Dalach, will represent Lithuania in the afternoon program of Dec. 2. The dancers are trained by V. F. Beliajus.

Vytautas Beliajus, besides training the two Lithuanian dance groups, is also training a group of dancers for the Danish and French programs.

ORIGINAL LITH XMAS CARDS

Beautiful Xmas cards, in original colors, of prize-winning creations on Lithuanian motifs in the art competition sponsored by the United Lithuanian Relief Fund (BALF) are available. A pack contains two sets of four cards including envelopes. The cost, \$1.00 for each pack or \$5.00 for 48 Xmas cards. The money from the proceeds of these lovely cards goes to Lithuanian relief. One card carries a design of a couple in national costumes doing the folk dance Suktinis; another, a scene portraying an angel showering stars over a home and a Lithuanian way side cross in the foreground; a third, a fir twig tied with

a Juosta (hand-woven belt) & the VYTIS (Lith emblem) in the background; the fourth design is of a creche and many various way-side crosses in the background. The greetings are written bi-lingually, Lithuanian and English. The cards may be obtained by writing to V. F. Beliajus, 1028 E. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill.

MORE ABOUT ČIURLIONIS ENSEMBLE

Much interest was evoked by the article on Čiurlionis Ensemble which appeared in the last issue of VILTIS. The ATEITIS folk dance group was first to respond, by sending two gifts of CARE packages, as a Christmas gift. By request, the following amplifies the previous article.

The life of displaced persons, at best, is drab and desolate, and needs constant boosting. Čiurlionis Ensemble performs this task capably, because its intent is not only to entertain, but to preserve Lithuanian folk heritages at all costs. As previously mentioned, director and teacher is Alfonsas Mikulskis, a young energetic man, strongly imbued with idealism and love of native country. Assistant director, Marija Baronaitė-Greblionas, Lithuanian folk dance authority, is well known to American Lithuanians since her visit here in 1939. She was delegated by the Lithuanian government to visit Lith. colonies in the States, and teach them Lithuanian folk dances. Mrs. Ona Mikulskis teaches and conducts the effective Kanklių orchestra. These three persons were recognized in the Lithuanian Filharmonija for their talents and accomplishments, and have had many years of erudition and experience, despite their youth.

The Ensemble is located in the small town of Dettingen in the French zone of Germany. In recompense for their fine concerts staged for French forces, the French have made available an old German sanatorium as headquarters for the Ensemble. A Čeičys is Business Mgr.

The repertoire of the Ensemble is quite extensive. It has over 100 compositions for mens', womens', and mixed choruses; over 30 Lithuanian folk dances; numerous orchestral numbers, and an ever-increasing library for various combinations of voices and instruments. There are 10 soloists in the group. In addition to the over 300 concerts, the Ensemble has given about 80 religious concerts.

The members of the Ensemble work intensively and devotedly, practicing, rehearsing, studying, and improving, from morning to night. The work exacts a strenuous mental and physical toll from them, because of serious food shortages. Many an artist or performer has collapsed on the stage from under-nourishment or hunger. They jokingly refer to their "light bodies" and slim figures, but this joking has decidedly serious connotations. Artists are not exempt from ravages of hunger.

Their courageous undertakings and self-sacrifice deserves recognition from their more fortunate American colleagues who, too, are interested in the folk dance and arts.

Mrs. Josephine Daužvardis

GIFTS FOR THE NEEDY

A CARE package was sent to the Čiurlionis Ensemble, Germany, as a gift from the ATEITIS folk dancers.

A CARE package to the Čiurlionis group was sent by Meilutė Žilis, a member of the ATEITIS group.

♦ ★ ♦

Father: — "What did you and Joe talk about last night?"

Daughter: — Oh, we talked about our kith and kin."

Little Brother: — "Yeth, pop, I heard 'em. He thaid 'Kin I have a kith?' and she thaid, 'Yeth, you kin!'"

Lithuanian Costumes

By VYTAUTAS F. BELIAJUS



THE SWING IN KALVELIS. THE CHECKERED DRESS IS THE MORE GENERAL AND FAVORITE AMONG THE LITHUANIANS AND CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ... LITHUANIA.

(Drawing by Bob Treonis)

In Lithuania the costume of both men and women is home made in every detail. The needle with which he sews is the only article the peasant buys. The flax planted and grown by the people, is spun, woven and made into clothes in the home. The entire process takes a whole year, but the durability of the finished materials is unexcelled.

The dress in every region of Lithuania, while easily distinguishable as Lithuanian, still has its own characteristic patterns and designs. The pattern described here is, to an extent, native to the province of Sudavija.

The skirt is, as a rule, checkered or plaid, with squares running evenly — vertically and horizontally but never diagonally. The size of the squares and the color scheme depends on the weaver's individual taste. Sometimes one of the lines, either the horizontal or ver-

tical, is composed of flower squares. One of the lines may be much lighter in shade, and at a distance the material of the skirt appears to be striped. However, vertically, or horizontally striped material is also used. The colors are definitely sombre, avoiding the garish. The skirt is gathered at the waist and very full. Additional fullness is concentrated toward the back.

The blouse is white, with a little round "Peter Pan" collar. The sleeves are long and full (except for children's sleeves, which are elbow length). The cuffs of the sleeves are narrow bands that fit tightly at the wrists. The collar, cuffs and sleeves may be embroidered.

The bodice (Kiklikas) may be brocade, checkered or solid colors. When solid colors are used, green material is preferred. Black is not used for a bodice unless as a background for the brocade, and even then the black